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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/941,975	10/01/97	BARRACLOUGH	K 11611.88US01

LM02/0702
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EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2743

DATE MAILED:

07/02/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/941,975

Applicant(s)
Keith Barraclough et al.

Examiner
Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Group Art Unit
2743



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 26, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 6, 12, are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwasaki (JP4032229588A).

Regarding claim 1, 6, 12, Iwasaki discloses video telephone system comprising: providing a videocommunicator constituted by (1-5, 8-15, fig. 1) having a video input port in 4, a video signal encoding circuit 8 and a video signal output port in 4, and using a digital still camera to generate video input signals to the video input port of the videocommunicator, the video out port of the videocommunicator capable of communicatively coupling to a communication channel for providing videoconferencing, a set-top box constituted by (1-5, 8-15, fig. 1) having a first and second input ports in (4,2) an output port at 4, and the set-top box configured and arranged to output display signals via the output port responsive to control signals at the second input port in 2, an external video camera 7 coupled to the first input port in 4 of the set-top box, configured to and arranged to output video signals, a control unit 4 coupled to the second input port and configured and arranged to receive user control inputs and, responsive thereto, provide control

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signals to the set-top box, and a display 6 coupled to the output port in 4 of the set-top box to receive display signals (figs. 1-2, see abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-5, 7-11, 13, 14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki in view of Sason et al. (US PAT. 5,016,107).

Regarding claims 2, Iwasaki teaches the following: using the videocommunicator to transmit video signals using a video-signal processing circuit 4 (general purpose processing circuit, fig. 2, see abstract); but does not explicitly teach DSP circuit for compression of video data.

However, Sasson discloses electronic still camera utilizing image compression and digital storage which teaches using DSP circuit 22 for compression of video data (fig. 1, col. 6 lines 3-6, col. 4 lines 60-63).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwasaki's system to provide for DSP circuit for compression of video data

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as this would enable the user to select the most desirable compression algorithm to achieve the desired results.

Regarding claim 3-5, Iwasaki teaches the following: digital still camera 7 to provide video signal representing a live target area along with a split screen representing stored stilled image (see fig. 2), output of the video communicator in 4 to provide video images for a display 6, other output port in 4 to output video data representing images received from the digital still camera 7 (figs. 1-2, see abstract).

Regarding claims 7, 14, Iwasaki further teaches the following: set-top box constituted by (1-5, 8-15, fig. 1) having a first video input port in 4, and a video output port in 4, and first and second telephone ports at 2 and 1, the set-top box configured and arranged to output video signals via video output port in 4, output local video signals via the second telephone port, and input remote video data signals via the second telephone port, responsive to control signals at the first telephone port at 2, the set-top box having a video signal processing circuit 4, a camera 7 coupled to the first video input port in 4, and configured and arranged to output video signals representative of stored images of the scene captured by the camera 7, a telephone circuit 9 coupled to the first telephone port at 2 and arranged to receive user control inputs and, responsive there to, provide control signals to the set-top box, and a monitor 6 coupled to the video output port to receive the video signals and display images represented by the video signals, video signal encoding circuit 8, programmable general purpose processor circuit 2, picture thinning (pan,

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zoom, and tilt functions) of the video input signals without controlling the digital still camera (figs. 1, 2, see abstract).

Iwasaki differs from the claimed invention by not teaching the following: programmable DSP circuit for video compression.

However, Sasson discloses electronic still camera utilizing image compression and digital storage which teaches programmable DSP circuit 22 for compression of video data (fig. 1, col. 6 lines 3-6, col. 4 lines 60-63).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwasaki's system to provide for programmable DSP circuit for compression of video data as this would enable the user to select the most desirable compression algorithm to achieve the desired results.

Regarding claims 8-11, 13, Iwasaki further teaches the following: set-top box constituted by (1-5, 8-15, fig. 1) having second video input port in 4, a video camera 7 coupled to the second video input port, the monitor 6 having a screen viewing area and the set-top box being responsive to control signals to split the screen to simultaneously display stored images and images represented by the local video signals, and the remote video signals as shown in fig. 2 (figs. 1-2, see abstract).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-9508.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

7. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

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Or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).


CURTIS A. KUNITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700